

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01
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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5905
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 0156

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT PFOR PL US
SUBJ: POLISH INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: WARSAW 0003 (NOTAL)

1. THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE FOREIGN DEPARTMENT OF THE PZPR
CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT, BOGUMIL SUJKA, TOLD THE EMBASSY
POLITICAL COUNSELOR ON JANUARY 7 THAT JAN SZYDLAK WAS RELEASED
AS A CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY AT THE DECEMBER PLENUM OF THE
PZPR. SUJKA SAID AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO THIS EFFECT WAS ISSUED, BUT
FOR SOME REASON NEVER APPEARED IN THE POLISH PRESS. PART OF THE
CONFUSION SINCE THEN, HE ADDED, HAS BEEN CAUSED BY SZYDLAK,
WHO CONTINUES TO ALLOW HIMSELF TO BE ADDRESSED AS "MR. SECRETARY",
AS WELL AS "MR. PREMIER."

2. SUJKA ALSO SAID THERE HAS BEEN NO DECISION BY TOP PARTY
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LEADERS ON HOW TO HANDLE THE WORKERS' DEFENSE LEAGUE AND OTHER
DISSIDENTS. HE ADDED THAT ONLY UNDER "EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES"
WOULD THE AUTHORITIES APPROVE "ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES" (I.E.,
PHYSICAL REPRESSION) AGAINST THE DISSIDENTS. NO SENIOR PARTY
LEADER, SUJKA REPORTED, IS NOW ADVOCATING A GET-TOUGH POLICY.
NO ONE WISHES TO CREATE MARTYRS.

3. SUJKA SAID THAT IT WOULD BE NAIVE TO MAINTAIN THAT THERE IS NOT DISSATISFACTION AMONG WORKERS, FARMERS, INTELLECTUALS, AND STUDENTS, AND EVEN AMONG PARTY MEMBERS, OVER THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN POLAND. THE VAST MAJORITY OF THOSE DISSATISFIED ARE WILLING TO WORK WITHIN THE SYSTEM, HOWEVER, A SMALL MINORITY INCLUDING THE WDL, IS ATTEMPTING TO USE THE CURRENT UNREST FOR SELFISH PERSONAL PURPOSES. THE MOST UNFORTUNATE ASPECT OF THEIR ACTIVITIES, IS THE BAD IMPRESSION THEY ARE CREATING IN THE WESTERN PRESS ABOUT LIFE IN POLAND. THEIR INFLUENCE ON THE POLISH WORKER, SUJKA MAINTAINED, IS MUCH LESS THAN ASSUMED. HE SAID THAT THE MAJOR AMERICAN NEWS PUBLICATIONS HAVE BEEN "VERY RESPONSIBLE" IN REPORTING POLISH INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS.

4. COMMENTS: THROUGHOUT THE CONVERSATION, SUJKA STRESSED THE POLISH LEADERSHIP'S CONCERN THAT A BAD WESTERN PRESS COULD FURTHER EXACERBATE POLAND'S TOUCHY DOMESTIC ECONOMIC SITUATION. THIS REALIZATION APPARENTLY IS ACTING TO NARROW REGIME OPTIONS ABOUT HOW TO DEAL WITH DISSIDENCE. END COMMENT.
BROWN

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